

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Summary

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected. Claim 2 is objected to. Claim 2 is currently amended.

The acknowledgement of the claim of priority and receipt of the copies of priority documents, as well as acceptance of the drawings, are noted with appreciation.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is objected to as indefinite in the use of the term 'IP54' because standards are relative and can change.

As explained in the attached 2-page EXHIBIT, a printout of a webpage of Hanna Instruments Corporation, which may be found at: <http://www.hannainst.com/products/prodline/protect.cfm>, the designation IP refers to an electrical standard developed by the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). In the designation IP54, the first number (5) describes the level of protection from solid objects, and the second number (4) describes the level of protection from liquids. The 5 means dust protected, i.e., ingress of dust is not totally prevented, but dust shall not penetrate in a quantity to interfere with satisfactory operation of the apparatus or to impair safety. The 4 means protection against splashing water, i.e., water splashed against the enclosure from any direction shall have no harmful effects.

In the designation IP67, also used in Applicant's specification, the 6 means dust tight, i.e., no ingress of dust, and the 7 means protection against the effects of temporary immersion in water, i.e., ingress of water in

quantities causing harmful effects shall not be possible when the enclosure is temporarily immersed 1 meter in water under standardized conditions of pressure and time.

Claim 2 is currently amended to incorporate the text of IP54. As suggested by the Examiner, the specification has also been amended to incorporate the text of IP54 and IP67. Since these designations are a part of a readily available published standard, and since this standard was in effect at the time of filing of Applicant's specification, incorporation of the text of the standard into Applicant's claim 2 and specification does not constitute new matter.

Accordingly, the objection to claim 2 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willson U.S. patent 6,676,284 in view of Fermgard et al. U.S. published patent application 2004/0179000 (herein 'Fermgard').

Willson discloses an apparatus which includes a linear array of LEDs (5) mounted on and electrically connected to a printed circuit board (4).

Willson does not teach or suggest protecting the LED mounting (5) and electric contacts by a package of hot melt material.

Fermgard discloses an electric pen including an LED (20) mounted on the pen in a position to illuminate the work surface. See, e.g., Fig. 6. The LED 20 is inserted into a mounting hole (21) and is fixed by means of glue, for instance hot melt adhesive. See para. [0052].

Fermgard fails to teach or suggest any electric connection wires for the LED, nor does the reference teach or suggest

mounting of the LED on a base, nor protecting an LED mounting and electric contacts to connection wires by a package of hot melt material.

Thus, the combination of Willson and Fermgard fails to teach or suggest protecting an LED mounting and electric contacts to connection wires by a package of hot melt material, as specifically called for by claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 are patentable over the combination of Willson and Fermgard, and the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willson and Fermgard in view of Epstein et al. U.S. patent 6,801,276 (herein 'Epstein').

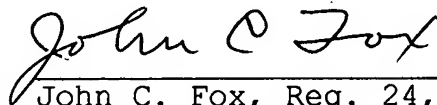
Epstein discloses an optical component with a self-adhering diffuser 8, preferably which scatters, or diffuses, light primarily in the forward direction, that is to say the general direction of incident light transmission, and scatters a relatively small amount of light in the backward direction. The self-adhering transfer diffuser may be constructed of a hot-melt adhesive, having diffusion properties incorporated therein. See cols. 3 and 4 of the reference.

In contrast to the teachings of Epstein, in which the diffuser 8 scatters light both forwards and backwards, Applicant's claim 2 calls for the hot melt material to have a white, light scattering surface. As generally understood, a white surface is not transmissive, but is reflective.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 5 over Willson and Fermgard in view of Epstein is in error and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection and rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Fox".

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